

THE RARITAN VALLEY ARTS ASSOCIATION est. 1939

May 2001 Newsletter

President: Linda Arnold
Newsletter Editor: Diana Patton
497 Stony Brook Drive
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Garden Greetings!

How beautiful is it outside? I don't know about you, but I'd live in my gardens this time of year if it were feasible! Where would you be?

Actually, though, no matter where you are, you'll want to get out on Monday, May 21st, and go to RVAA's May meeting at the Pluckemin Presbyterian Church, 7:30 pm to watch an oil painting demo by the renowned artist S. Allyn Schaefer (many awards and in several art books) and teacher (at SAA and other associations). S. Allyn Schaefer also juries and judges a great many shows (an interesting question might be, "what do you look for when you're judging?"). The evening promises to be very special. Our thanks go to Debbie Tintle, our Program Chairwoman.

And all enjoyed Doug Axmann's demo last month, an oil landscape of the Great Swamp (you might wonder why your Newsletter editor doesn't get to many meetings; it's because she teaches Mon-Tues-Wed nights, and she really hates to miss the great RVAA demos). Did you know that at each RVAA meeting it is Doug and our President Linda Arnold who end up putting chairs away, cleaning up coffee stuff, and going to the dumpster? Next meeting some of you may wish to help, and next fall we are really hoping for some volunteers--we could use help with hospitality....and... can anyone remember when Debbie Tintle wasn't Program Chairwoman? She would really appreciate someone willing to take over or help. And can anyone remember when Elsa Herrmann didn't chair the members' judged shows--obtaining judges, ribbons and certificates, and getting out a program? Well, now Elsa will be moving to Brick Township and RVAA needs a show chairperson. (you wouldn't have to worry about the unjudged part of the library Holiday Show, racks, show sitting, etc.; the newsletter editor will continue on that job). So, please, RVAA has many creative and capable members--you CAN handle one of these positions. You'll meet and work with interesting artists and judges, you'll learn good stuff, and stretch yourself positively. You'll be told how to do it all, ahead of time. You may call Linda Arnold at 908/647-3610 immediately. And a huge round of applause for Linda and Doug, and Debbie Tintle and Elsa Herrmann.

Oh, yes, our thanks to Debbie Hughes, for running our joyous trip to the Big Apple. How great were the Vermeer/School of Delft and William Blake shows, as well as the rest of the Met?! And the AWS show at the Salmagundi, and that little gem of a (free) museum, the Forbes Museum, where the changing art exhibit this time was superb British Marine Painting. We all had a wonderful time. Don't miss it next year!

Nona Rutter is chairing RVAA's show at the Children's Specialized Hospital, just off Rt 22 near Westfield (Mountainside Rd). Please call Nona at 908/766-4962 to exhibit--the number of paintings you bring depends on how many are interested in exhibiting. Receiving is August 1st; pick-up is August 31st. You may want to let Nona know what medium you use and roughly how large your paintings would be. Later, in July, Nona will phone you with exact times and how many paintings to bring. Thank you, Nona!

You only have a few days (May 20th) to catch 3 other shows--mentioned in last month's newsletter, we can't let it pass this month either--American Impressionism at the Rutgers University Zimmerli Art Museum--732/932-7237. Twachtman, Metcalf, Cassat, Chase, Prendergast, etc.; the Smithsonian's going to take them back soon! And the New Jersey Water Color Society Show at the Papermill Playhouse and the Garden State Watercolor Society Show at the 1860 house--gone by May 21st--try not to miss these.

You'll notice an insert this Newsletter. Once again RVAA member Don Nathen has organized a lovely and varied schedule for anyone interested in En Plein Air painting. All are welcome--from the newest beginners to advanced, all media, to come and paint outside. You start about 9:30, paint until noonish. Then the group eats their bag lunch under a shady tree or two while swapping painterly stories. You then continue painting or you leave--no instruction, no pressure, just a comradely group of artists. Most trips are Wednesdays--you meet on the site--exceptions are noted. For further info. you may phone Don at 973/966-5484.

The 1860 House, Montgomery Cultural Center, has an extensive summer workshop schedule (as does the Somerset Art Association 908/234-2345), but what is particularly notable is their Summer Art Camp 2001, for young people 6 and up (not all in the same classes!), which runs June 25-Aug 17 and includes everything from acrylic painting to collage to puppet making, drawing, polymer clay, and coil pots. You can phone

609/921-3272 for a full schedule of all classes and workshops.

The Health Center for Women at Saint Peter's University Hospital is co-sponsoring an Art Exhibition and Sale in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month on Oct. 12-14th at Saint Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick. The artwork can be an expression of one's own experiences or the artist can dedicate an existing piece to someone they know who has been touched by this disease. Please phone Charlotte Shipley 732/745-6680 at the Center or Pat Moore 732/356-3968 for more info. Painters, photographers, sculptors, and writers may participate.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

LINDA ARNOLD will have a one-woman exhibit of thirty watercolors at the Children's Specialized Hospital, Mountainside Ave. off Rt. 22, during June and July.

ELLEN FARBER exhibited at the "Watercolorists Unlimited" 2001 Annual Show & Sale at the Blackwells Mills Canal House on April 21st and 22nd. (The Watercolorists Unlimited group has about 20-25 watercolorists who are especially active in central New Jersey)

DIANA WILKOC PATTON has a one-woman exhibit in the Madison Gallery of Morristown Memorial Hospital April 15th through May 25th. There are about 50 watercolors in the show, which is 3 min. from the first Morristown exit (going north) off of Rt. 287.

CAROL STAUB, who now lives half the year up here and the other half in Port St. Lucie, FL., had her painting "Beached" accepted into the 4 county juried art show at the A.E. Bean Backus Gallery and Museum in Ft. Pierce, FL, which was on exhibit April 4-April 22.

LINDA TAFFE, who now lives half the time on Marco Island, FL, and half in England, was recently up here to be inducted into the New Jersey Water Color Society (she was in the NJWCS show at the Monmouth Museum). She also received full membership in the GSWS, having been accepted into their juried show for third time, and was accepted into the Catharine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club in New York City. She plans to visit NJ often.

SONJA WEIR is in WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA 2002 edition. She is also scheduled to show at the Agora Gallery in SoHo, New York City, from June 13--July 3, 2001. You are all welcome to her Opening Reception on Thursday, June 14, from 6-8 pm.

So! Our next meeting will be in September, undoubtedly the third Monday, and most likely at the Pluckemin Presbyterian Church. Full details will be in your September Newsletter. Meanwhile--PLEASE keep mailing YOUR NEWS to me; I'll keep it in a big (hopefully) envelope ready to share with all of you RVAAers in September. Have a most bodacious and glorious summer, enjoying all of it with all of your senses (this is your editor's favorite season).